



PLACER COUNTY  
**SHERIFF**  
CORONER-MARSHAL



MAIN OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 6990  
AUBURN, CA 95604  
PH: (530)889-7800 FAX: (530)889-7899

TAHOE SUBSTATION  
DRAWER 1710  
TAHOE CITY, CA 96145  
PH: (530)581-6300 FAX: (530)581-6377

**EDWARD N. BONNER**  
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

**STEPHEN L. D'ARCY**  
UNDERSHERIFF

## PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: **February 20, 2005 / 9 PM**  
Date/Time of Occurrence: **February 20, 2005 / 11:15 AM**  
Nature of Call: **Avalanche Buries Three / Two Survive**  
Location of Call: **Public Lands, 2 Miles East of Mt. Lincoln**  
Case Number: **SO-05-2783**  
Released by: **George Malim, Lieutenant 530-889-7862**

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### **SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:**

Three cross-country skiers were covered by an avalanche on public lands about two miles East of Mt. Lincoln.

At 11:15 AM, the Placer County Sheriff's Department Dispatch Center in Auburn received a call from Sugar Bowl Ski Resort advising of an avalanche in the backcountry area that possibly buried at least one skier. It was soon learned that the avalanche had actually buried three skiers and one was able to dig their way out. The survivor quickly located a second skier and dug them out. After an hour of searching for the third skier, they did locate her but were unable to revive her. The identity of the victim is being withheld pending notification of next of kin. The victim was airlifted from the scene.

A group of eleven skiers set out yesterday from Sugar Bowl and spent the night at Benson Hut. Overnight, approximately 3 feet of snow fell in the area. This morning, the entire group went out skiing. As some of the first skiers returned to Benson Hut, they received a radio call from others in the group reporting an avalanche and that some of their party was buried. Those at the scene started searching while the others returned to assist.

All members of this skiing party were experienced skiers and were carrying two-way radios, shovels and avalanche beacons.